



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## 2019-2020 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Under the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also called “iCanConnect,” the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) may provide up to \$10 million annually from the interstate telecommunications relay service fund (TRS Fund) to support local programs that distribute equipment to eligible low-income individuals who are deaf-blind, so that these individuals can access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications services.<sup>1</sup> By this notice, the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) announces the funding allocations for the NDBEDP for 2019-2020.<sup>2</sup>

As directed by the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, for 2019-2020, CGB will set aside \$250,000 for national outreach efforts to be conducted by the Perkins School for the Blind.<sup>3</sup> In addition, pursuant to that order, CGB will set aside \$100,000 towards the development of a centralized database that certified programs will be required to use to submit information about their NDBEDP-related activities for reporting purposes and may use for the generation of reimbursement claims.<sup>4</sup>

The remaining \$9.65 million of funding for 2019-2020 will be used to reimburse certified programs for the cost of equipment and authorized related services, up to each certified program’s funding allocation.<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, initial funding allocations for 2019-2020 are calculated by providing a minimum base amount of \$50,000 for each jurisdiction plus a

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 620; *see also* 47 CFR §§ 64.6201-64.6219; *Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9178 (2016) (*NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*).

<sup>2</sup> The fund year for the NDBEDP runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year, which coincides with the TRS Fund year. *See generally* 47 CFR § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(H).

<sup>3</sup> *See NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9236-37, 9242, paras. 135, 149.

<sup>4</sup> *See id.* at 9242, 9250-51, paras. 149, 169 (authorizing CGB to allocate an amount necessary from the \$10 million available annually from the TRS Fund for the NDBEDP for the development and maintenance of the centralized database). During 2019-2020, CGB and the NDBEDP Administrator will continue to coordinate with the FCC’s Office of Managing Director and Chief Information Officer, as well as with NDBEDP certified programs that will use or access the database, as appropriate, to identify the data elements, structure of the database, and other implementation details in accordance with the *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*. *See id.* at 9250-51, 9264-65, paras. 169, 202. CGB may reallocate to certified programs all or part of the funds set aside for this purpose if it determines that they will not be used during 2019-2020. *See* 47 CFR § 64.6205 (directing CGB to designate an NDBEDP Administrator to determine annual funding allocations and reallocations). In subsequent years, it is expected that additional funds will be allocated for the production, testing, implementation, and maintenance of the centralized database.

<sup>5</sup> *See* 47 CFR § 64.6213.

portion of the remaining available funding in an amount proportionate to the population of that jurisdiction.<sup>6</sup> The initial allocations for the 56 covered jurisdictions are as follows:<sup>7</sup>

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
Alabama	Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	\$151,234
Alaska	Assistive Technology of Alaska	\$65,273
Arizona	Perkins School for the Blind	\$198,534
Arkansas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,420
California	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$869,277
Colorado	Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind	\$167,962
Connecticut	Connecticut Tech Act Project	\$123,994
Delaware	University of Delaware – Center for Disabilities Studies	\$70,031
Florida	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$491,136
Georgia	Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$267,872
Hawaii	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$79,420
Idaho	University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development	\$86,332
Illinois	To Be Determined <sup>8</sup>	\$313,884
Indiana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$188,597
Iowa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$115,368
Kansas	Assistive Technology for Kansans	\$110,301

<sup>6</sup> *NDBEDP Permanent Program Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 9242, para. 149.

<sup>7</sup> Population figures for these calculations are derived from U.S. Census data. See U.S. Census Bureau, Population, population change, and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2018 (NST-EST2018-alldata), <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2018/national/totals/nst-est2018-alldata.csv> (May 9, 2019); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for American Samoa: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table1b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 3b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for Guam: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table3b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 2b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for the Northern Mariana Islands: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table2b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, Table 4b, Population, Housing Units, Land Area, and Density by Place for the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2010, <https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/cph-t/t-8tables/table4b.pdf> (Oct. 28, 2013).

<sup>8</sup> *FCC Invites Applications for Certification to Participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for Kentucky and Illinois*, Public Notice, DA 19-543 (CGB June 10, 2019).

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
Kentucky	To Be Determined <sup>9</sup>	\$142,546
Louisiana	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center	\$146,514
Maine	Disability Rights Maine	\$77,720
Maryland	Perkins School for the Blind	\$175,152
Massachusetts	Perkins School for the Blind	\$192,952
Michigan	Perkins School for the Blind	\$257,028
Minnesota	Perkins School for the Blind	\$166,215
Mississippi	Perkins School for the Blind	\$111,855
Missouri	Missouri Assistive Technology	\$176,887
Montana	Perkins School for the Blind	\$72,002
Nebraska	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership	\$89,958
Nevada	Perkins School for the Blind	\$112,846
New Hampshire	Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.	\$78,094
New Jersey	New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$234,507
New Mexico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$93,399
New York	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$454,744
North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing	\$265,058
North Dakota	North Dakota Assistive	\$65,742
Ohio	Perkins School for the Blind	\$292,103
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$131,666
Oregon	Access Technologies, Inc.	\$136,795
Pennsylvania	Institute on Disabilities – Temple University	\$315,251
Rhode Island	Perkins School for the Blind	\$71,898
South Carolina	Perkins School for the Blind	\$155,299
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$68,272
Tennessee	Tennessee Public Utility Commission	\$190,216
Texas	Perkins School for the Blind	\$644,452

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<b>State</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
Utah	Perkins School for the Blind	\$115,471
Vermont	Perkins School for the Blind	\$62,971
Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$226,412
Washington	Perkins School for the Blind	\$206,072
West Virginia	Perkins School for the Blind	\$87,401
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources	\$170,406
Wyoming	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities – University of Wyoming	\$61,966
<b>Other Jurisdictions</b>	<b>NDBEDP Certified Program</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
District of Columbia	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	\$64,549
American Samoa	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$51,150
Guam	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$53,300
Northern Mariana Islands	Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults	\$51,116
Puerto Rico	Perkins School for the Blind	\$116,176
U.S. Virgin Islands	Perkins School for the Blind	\$52,204
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,650,000</b>
	National Outreach	\$250,000
	Centralized Database	\$100,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

CGB reminds certified entities that the above amounts are intended to serve as initial allocations only. To maximize available funds under the NDBEDP, CGB may make (1) voluntary reallocations between certified programs at any time during the TRS Fund year and (2) involuntary reallocations when individual program performance indicates that NDBEDP funds could be more fully utilized by other certified programs.<sup>10</sup>

**ACCESSIBLE FORMATS:** To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Jackie Ellington, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-1153 or [Jackie.Ellington@fcc.gov](mailto:Jackie.Ellington@fcc.gov); or Rosaline Crawford, Disability Rights office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-2075 or [Rosaline.Crawford@fcc.gov](mailto:Rosaline.Crawford@fcc.gov).

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<sup>10</sup> NDBEDP Permanent Program Order, 31 FCC Rcd at 9244, para. 153.